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PROMPT MOVEMENT OF WATER-SUPPLY CHEMICALS ASSURED.

On August 6, 1920, the Commission on Car Service of the American Railway Association, which is associated with the Interstate Commerce Commission in the execution of orders concerning interstate carriers, issued the following circular:

CIRCULAR CCS-68.

To Railroads:

The Bureau of the Public Health Service, in conjunction with the public health departments of different States, advises that there exists a widespread scarcity of chemicals necessary for water purification purposes throughout the country, together with more or less scarcity of raw materials in the hands of manufacturers of such chemicals.

To meet this situation, carriers are requested to take such action as will afford prompt movement of the following materials when to be used for the purification of public water supply, and for that purpose consigned to municipal authorities, or when for movement to plants for the manufacture of chemicals to be used for such purposes:

ALUMINUM SULPHATE.

BAUXITE.

CHLORINE.

CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE.

SODA ASH.

COPPERAS.

LIME.

EMPTY CYLINDERS FOR CHLORINE SHIPMENT.

Full assurance was given the bureau that this circular included the movement of such chemicals even in cases of present or future embargo.

In regard to the procedure to be followed in case shipments of chemicals are still delayed, it is suggested that each shipment coming within the scope of the circular be taken up at once with the railroad concerned. In case relief is not obtained from the railroad, detailed facts should be telegraphed the Interstate Commerce Commission, and a copy of the telegram sent to the Bureau of the Public Health Service. Each case will be expedited at once by the Interstate Commerce Commission. The Bureau should be informed of all action taken on each shipment until the shipment is received in order that it may fully assist in the expediting of each case.

Because of present transportation difficulties it is strongly recommended that less than carload shipments, when urgently needed, be sent by express, especially shipments of liquid chlorine. Chemicals not required for several months may be sent by freight when in less than carload lots, and such shipments can be expedited to be received on time.

At the present time shipments of chemicals used in water purification are being expedited satisfactorily.